

THE NATIONAL FORUM

VOL. I. NO. 18.

WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 1910.

ONE DOLLAR A YEAR.

VANITY FAIR.

CONDUCTED BY JOHN H. WILLS.

The main difference between civilized man and the savage is—savages don't read.

OPENING OF HOWARD THEATRE.

Less than a year ago this project had its beginning and last Monday saw the Howard Theatre finished and ready for the audience. This is the newest, best equipped and furnished house in this city and will rank first among the theatres of its kind in the entire country. Its dimensions are, width 80 feet, depth 126 feet, with a stage 28 by about 58 feet, being 32 feet before the footlights. There are eight proscenium boxes, four on each side. The wide, beautiful curved sweep of the balcony forms an orchestra circle that is very graceful and pleasing; and the dip of the same arch gives a pleasing contour to the parquet. The balcony is the most artistically proportioned of any I have viewed. The entire house is most carefully designed and constructed and elegantly furnished, though one might say the mural decorations and the frescoes are a trifle gaudy. The seats are wide, comfortable and pleasant, well-proportioned and with plenty of room space between and in front of them, so that the tall and the fat may sit in comfort and persons may pass in and out with ease. There are seats for about 1,250 persons, with comfortable standing room for about 300 more.

Henry L. Maas, of Baltimore, the builder, says he has built four theatres in the last eighteen months, and this is the prettiest and best of the lot. Mr. Maas built one theatre in this city during the time mentioned, and it does not compare with the Howard for beauty and equipment, or in design and proportion. Mr. W. S. Saunders, put in the scenery and stage settings, said this is as fine as any theatre in the country. The stage is thoroughly equipped with every modern device for safety and utility. It is all steel, brick and cement, the only wood being the floor. The flies are fifty feet, and all curtains and scenery are fire-proof. The curtains and scenery are painted by Mr. Walter Simmer. The owners, Rosenthal and Benedict, are white men.

The audience which gathered Monday night was characteristically Washingtonian. The varied elements of our social life flowed into one pleasing, harmonious gathering. Every seat was sold long in advance and when the orchestra struck up the overture, the house was full, and "Standing Room Only" was hung out. Mr. and Mrs. Tom Langanter, a white team opened the house with a banjo and black-face act. They were only ordinary. The next "act" was Judge Terrell, with a very graceful speech of welcome, saying: "I am glad to see that there is at last a theatre where all men and all women may come without fear of humiliation or discrimination." The judge exited amidst applause, only to return, saying he had been chosen ring-master, and introduced Hon. Harry Cummings, of Baltimore, who congratulated us, and said we should congratulate Baltimore. (We do Harry, we congratulate her on your account.) Then Hon. Ralph Tyler delighted us with wit and wisdom. The management were lucky in "book- ing" Mr. Tyler. The regular show then proceeded with Johnson Brothers and Johnson, three old-time minstrels, with a lot of very old-time jokes. The Seymour Sisters took place of Rice Brothers, and it gave us some very clever clog dancing. We needed Miss Edna Niner to really waken us, and she did it, assisted by Mr. Frank J. Clermont, who seemed to suffer from a cold and something else. Miss Abbie Mitchell was the big act. She has improved, broadened, developed; her fine voice is mellower and richer and she has gained surety and poise. She seemed a bit hoarse in her first song, but it all disappeared, and "Cousin Caruso" and "Mammy's Lasses Candy Child" were finely given. After repeated encores, she returned and sang "Red, Red Rose" over a bunch of roses some admirer had sent. The Pekin Trio were good, especially the "cello solo" by Mr. Sam Arnold. E. E. Warren Hatch & Co. were very clever in an old comedy named "Miss Cupid." The Five Lardards are good acrobats.

The orchestra was very inadequate, both as to number and arrangement of the instruments. They were very weak.

JIM CROW DEMOCRATS.

Primary time is near. Are we going in and help none good, shrewd men, shall we wait and let the domination and complaining. The watchword is "Progress," brother, and many of the old-time good thing politicians are doing the wise thing and retiring. The people, that is, the Republican people, are determined to rule and rule right.

There are a number of colored voters who are leaning toward democracy. The majority of these are Democrats for revenue only. The others are good men, short sighted and misled. Now, Mr. Taft does things I do not like, particularly, his era of peace stuff regarding the South, and his giving Democrats good offices that Republicans should have, but I can't see where Mr. Bryan looks like "Relief."

The Democratic party is dead, the Solid South is its unburied remains, and it is rotten.

LETTER OF DENIAL FROM CHAS. D. FREEMAN, E. R. COLOMBIA LODGE, I. B. P. O. E.

Washington, D. C., Aug. 23, 1910.
Mr. John H. Wills,
Business Manager of the National Forum:
Dear Sir:
I see in an article published in last week's issue, reporting me as saying that all matters were settled and that every member of both lodges is satisfied with the results of the joint session, and I was surprised that Dr. Mills should move so narrow, and do not think many Elks will be guided by him in this affair. I wish to enter a denial of making any such statement to anyone, as you know the only statement I made was pertaining to the jewel and the masterly manner in which your paper gave the account of the convention. Very respectfully,
CHAS. D. FREEMAN.

FASHIONS IN TOOTHPICKS.

We are pleased to report that it is no longer considered as vulgar, as it once was, to pick one's teeth with a toothpick, but that it is now considered as the proper thing to do forth into the wide, wide world with a

toothpick out of your face. For many years there has been a goodly number of estimable male and female persons habitually pervading public places thus ornamented. After a long and hard fight by a little band of mighty men of war, public opinion was taken up to the point of condemnation regarding this practice. Now the most up-to-date etiquette demands that the tooth pick be used unseen and then relegated to dim obscurity.

"IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE."

There are \$75,000,000 spent yearly in the United States for advertisement, leaving out publicity and all forms of indirect advertising. The question is not, "shall I advertise?" but "how can I advertise properly?" How much of that 75 millions do you spend, Mr. Business Man, and how do you spend it? I will be glad to talk advertising to any one interested. I am familiar with the best methods and know how results can be reached.

JOHN H. WILLS.

NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

(By C. L. BARNES.)

The convention of the National Medical Association was opened by the president, Marcus F. Wheatland, in the chapel of Howard University, Tuesday, August 23rd, at 10 a. m. After prayers, by Rev. D. E. Wiseman, the president welcomed the delegates and friends to the twelfth annual convention of the association. The morning session was taken up with the reports of officers of the association. An appeal was made to the delegates and friends present to contribute funds to liquidate the indebtedness of the Journal, published by the association. A generous response was made to the extent of one hundred dollars. The afternoon session was taken up with the reading of the reports by the business manager of the Journal, Dr. C. V. Roman, and reports of the State and local presidents of the association. In the evening a public meeting held in the 19th Street Baptist Church. It was called to order at 8 o'clock by the Presiding Officer, W. S. Lofton, D. D. S., Chairman of the Local Committee.

Invocation..... Rev. Walter H. Brooks Solo..... Selected

Miss Charlotte Wallace.

Address of Welcome by the Secretary of the Board of Commissioners on behalf of the District Government.

William Tindell, LL.D., M. D.

Violin Solo.....

(a) "To a Wild Rose"..... Mac Dowell

(b) Hungarian Dance..... Gramms

Mr. Clarence G. White.

Address on behalf of Local Committee:

M. O. Dumas, M. D.

Address on behalf of Citizens of Washington.....

Judge R. H. Terrell, A. M., LL.D., Chairman of the Citizens Committee.

Solo..... Selected

Miss Lola Johnson.

Response on behalf of the National Medical Association:

J. E. Hunsinger, LL.D., Lexington, Ky.

Dr. C. Sumner Wormley.

Solo..... Selected

Benediction..... Rev. D. E. Wiseman

Informal Smoker.

The smoker given by the Mu-Su-Lit Club to the N. M. A. was a decided success.

It was planned on the unique order of the Gridiron program, and was a wide departure from the trite and well-worn customs employed to conduct like affairs.

The affair was held in the Arne Reformers' Hall, Tuesday, August 23, and goes down as a splendid feature of the week's entertainments.

The reception at the Nineteenth Street Baptist Church was an affair to be long remembered. The speeches of Judge Terrell and Dr. Tindell were especially appropriate. Dr. Dumas in a very apt and appropriate response did himself honor. Dr. Hunter, of Lexington, also came in for a share of praise by way of responding to the address of welcome.

The lawn fete given on Howard University Campus was well attended and was a pleasing affair because of its departure from the general routine of this class of entertainments.

Thursday night was the occasion of the ball in the Convention Hall, and it was well attended. The splendid array of attire and the general air of culture designate the calibre of the makeup of the occasion, and was well in keeping with the whole proceedings.

Friday's trip down the river to Washington Park was the crowning feature of the meeting and was enjoyed by all. It was strictly exclusive and enjoyed because of the fact, each delegate and every member of the committee felt that his labors were at an end and he was at liberty to feel and libitum.

Members of the Morning Star, No. 40, have organized a Boston Club, for the purpose of having 100 uniformed men go to Boston to the annual I. B. P. O. E. Convention next August.

Dr. D. D. and Mrs. Ferguson, of Richmond, Va., are guests of Mrs. Florence Edmonds, of Y street, to the N. M. A.

J. Thomas Tascos is visiting in New York city and State.

Mr. Jno. H. Brooks, of New York, is visiting his brother, Maj. Arthur Brooks.

Mrs. L. Hognans and Mrs. Bowman, her mother and father, will visit New York and Atlantic City, N. J.

Mrs. Louis Ferrey, of Augusta, Ga., is visiting Mrs. Edward Allen, of Fourteenth street.

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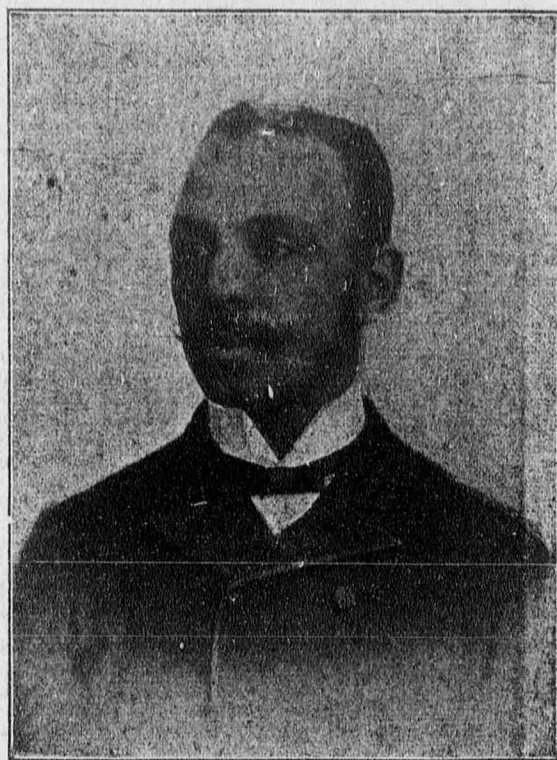
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Hon. J. Frank Blagburn

The subject of this sketch, Hon. J. Frank Blagburn is a native of Iowa, his home town being Des Moines. Mr. Blagburn was the second colored pharmacist in the State and was elected two terms as superintendent of the Market.

He came here as a copyist and by dint of close application and persistence to other with efficiency, he has arisen to the position of cashier of the office of the recorder of deeds. He was superintendent of the St. Paul A. M. E. Sunday school for two years, from which church he was elected delegate to the Electoral College in Baltimore, September 7th, 1910. There is no doubt but that he will be the choice of the majority as a delegate to the General Conference at Kansas City, Mo., in 1912.

Mr. Blagburn is Shriner, belongs to the Elks and is an active member of the Wilberforceans of this city.

Miss Mary Walton is spending two weeks at Buena, Virginia, visiting relatives and friends.

Miss Mary Toney, of Zanesville, Ohio, and Miss Bertha Dickerson, of Baltimore, Md., were guests of Miss Lucille Nooks, 1314 V street, N. W.

Miss Julia Howard, of Atlanta, Ga., spent Wednesday of this week in the city. Miss Howard is returning from an extended trip in the North.

Hon. Wm. L. Houston, G. M., of the United Order of Odd Fellows, spent the week in the city. He returned to Chicago the latter part of the week, where he has his law office and enjoys a lucrative practice.

Miss Frankie Sims a popular teacher in the city schools of St. Louis, Mo., is stopping with Miss Simmons, of this city.

Mrs. Oliver, of St. Joseph, Mo., is spending some time in the city, the guest of her sister, Miss Lawrence. Mrs. Oliver is in the St. Joseph schools, and is considered one of the most efficient educators in the State of Missouri.

Mr. Robert Campbell, formerly of Washington, now clerk in the Postoffice at New York, is spending his vacation at his former residence, 1425 15th street, N. W. Mr. Campbell is one of our popular young men who has gone forth and made good. He is a relative of Miss Gussie Harrod, the well known church worker, of Plymouth Congregational Church.

Mrs. W. A. Anderson, of Wilberforce, wife of Mr. W. A. Anderson, of that place, is in the city spending a few days with her sister, Mrs. C. F. Fillmore.

Mrs. J. Frank Blagburn returned from Richmond where she was a delegate to the convention of the I. O. of St. Lukes. Mrs. Blagburn was one of the delegates.

Miss Mattie Throckmorton, who has been visiting in Norfolk, Va., has returned to the city.

Mrs. Gould, of Baltimore, Md., is the week-end guest of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Williamson, of 1029 Ninth street, N. W., whose establishment is becoming so famous for immaculate linen, and palatable viands.

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News Stories of the Week Condensed Into Paragraphs.

WASHINGTON.

Inadequate means of protecting the forests and unusually dangerous conditions are blamed by Associate Forester Potter for the fires in the north-west.

Senator Warner of Missouri announced in Washington that on account of ill health he would not seek re-election.

Five American citizens in jail on the Isle of Pines, Cuba, cabled to Washington they had been unjustly arrested and that they are being treated shamefully.

The government has taken the necessary step against the American Sugar Refining company to protect itself against the statute of limitations in the matter of the alleged frauds regarding drawbacks.

The state department reports that forty-nine Japanese sealers are prisoners at Alaska, Alaska, having been seized by the United States authorities on the charge of unlawfully sealing.

Forty-six relatives of ex-President Castro were expelled from Venezuela, according to advices received by the state department in Washington.

The United States will not oppose the annexation of Korea by Japan, which now seems imminent, on account of a provision in the Portsmouth treaty between Russia and Japan, which seems to permit it.

PERSONAL.

Mrs. Jack Cuddey, whose husband slashed Banker Lillie, was granted a divorce in Kansas City. She alleged cruelty.

President Taft, it was announced in Beverly, is in favor of a further revision of the tariff; he has written a letter to Congressman McKinley for publication in the Republican campaign textbook giving his views in detail.

Senator La Follette is directing his fight for renomination from his farm, three miles from Madison, Wis. His campaign managers and stenographers go over to the farm daily and receive his directions.

Mayor Gaylor walked across his bedroom in the hospital at Hoboken, N. J., and expressed himself pleased at the progress he was making.

Many Americans, including the Ambassador and Mrs. Reid, attended the memorial service at St. Paul's, London, for Florence Nightingale, who was buried with simple ceremonies in Hampshire.

Secretary Ballinger said he would not resign his office as long as President Taft was satisfied.

The King and Queen of Italy may go in person to the province of Bari della Puglia, where there is an epidemic of Asiatic cholera.

GENERAL NEWS.

Ex-President Roosevelt, in an address to the graduates of Heckmer and Owsida counties in Utah, aligned himself with President Taft and Governor Hughes.

Joseph C. Siller, following his withdrawal from the race for congress in the Twenty-eighth Pennsylvania district, was arrested at Franklin, Pa., on a warrant charging him with "conspiracy to defraud voters."

It was reported at Spokane, Wash., that the number of deaths in the northwestern forest fires would reach 400.

Returns from the Georgia primary election indicated that Hoke Smith had won the nomination for governor over Joseph Brown, the present incumbent.

Safety in Numbers. A multitude of books distracts the mind.—Seneca.

Mayor John F. Fitzgerald of Boston announced that he is a candidate for the Democratic nomination for governor provided he is assured by the party leaders that he is the strongest available man.

President Taft in a letter to Lloyd C. Griscom, president of the New York county Republican committee, repudiated the action of the "old guard" in electing Vice-President Sherman temporary chairman of the Saratoga convention.

Frank B. Harriman, Charles T. Ewing and John M. Taylor, former officials of the Illinois Central railroad, were arrested in Chicago on charges in connection with the railroad graft scandal.

Eleven persons were injured, one mortally, and many slightly in the collapse of a grand stand while watching a balloon ascension at Union Hill, N. J. The balloonist himself was fatally hurt while making a parachute leap.

Two navy deserters murdered the captain of the Alaska-Pacific liner Buckman off the coast of Oregon and tried to capture the ship.

The rubber trust, which controls the manufacture of automobile tires in this country, is seeking to monopolize the manufacture of the steel rims for automobile wheels.

President Taft has directed Gen. Leonard Wood, chief of staff of the United States army, to render all assistance in his power to the stricken states of the west. He also has sent a telegram offering aid to Governors Brady of Idaho, Norris of Montana and Hay of Washington.

A good government league was launched in Louisiana, with a fund of \$50,000; resolutions denounced Senator Sanders and bossism.

The United mine workers, in special convention in Indianapolis, approved all existing strikes and levied an assessment on all working members for the relief of those who are out.

The congressional committee investigating Indian land affairs issued a statement at Sulphur, Okla., that there was no warrant for the use of the names of Vice President Sherman and Senator Charles Curtis in connection with any improper relation with Indian contractors.

Clifford B. Harman, in a biplane, made the first aerial flight over Long Island sound, alighting in Greenwich, Conn.

Congressman J. E. Ellerbe, of the sixth South Carolina district, and P. A. Hodges, who is opposing him for re-election, engaged in a fierce fist fight at Lake City.

Speaking of his recent western trip, Senator Crane told his callers that he found general business surprisingly good, the only menace to reviving prosperity being found in popular unrest, which is manifesting itself in some of the political activities of the day.

FOREIGN.

Cardinal Aguirre, primate of Spain, has openly espoused the cause of the clerical juntas of the north.

Great Britain is said to be planning a motor battleship which will outclass a Dreadnought.

M. Venizelos the founder of the Hellenic army league, won a signal victory in the Grecian assembly elections.

General Estrada, on assuming the temporary presidency of Nicaragua, cabled to the American people assurance of warm regard and a promise of proper restitution for the killing of Cannon and Groce and other atrocities perpetrated by his predecessors.

Fighting between liberal and clerical factions occurred in a suburb of Barcelona, Spain. Troops restored order. Serious trouble is feared on Sunday.

The official estimate of the western Canada crop was announced as follows: Wheat, 101,250,000 bushels; oats, 108,250,000; barley, 17,000,000 bushels; flax, 4,000,000 bushels.

A chambermaid and her husband were arrested at Saint Moritz, Switzerland, for the theft of the jewelry of Mrs. Daniel Bacon of New York; the former has confessed; the jewels were recovered.

Owing to the enormous rise in the price of meat and despite the high protectionist system of the country, the Austrian government has decided to open the frontiers to dressed meat from Argentina, Roumania, and Serbia.

There was an explosion in the laboratory of the proving grounds of the Krupp works at Essen, the buildings being subsequently destroyed by fire. The powder sheds near by containing a great quantity of explosives, were barely saved by the quickness of the firemen.

It was stated at the American legation, Panama, that the United States government would consider unconstitutional the election by the national assembly of Acting President Carlos Mendoza as president of the republic of Panama to fill out the unfinished two years of the term of the late President Obaldia.

Owing to the strike of the cloak-makers in New York, many manufacturers are swamped with orders from New York and are working over time.

J. B. Moissant made two more attempts to reach London in his flight from Paris, but was prevented by high winds, his machine being badly damaged on the second flight.

Dispatches from Bari say that the cholera epidemic in Italy seems to be decreasing owing to the severe measures taken by the authorities to combat the disease.

The Estrada forces entered Managua. Jose Estrada proclaimed his brother, the insurgent general, president, and the city was surrendered without fighting. W. P. Pittman has been released.

Eighteen men, mostly stockers, lost their lives in the hold of the British armored cruiser Bedford when she went on rocks south of Korea.

Advices from Lisbon said that the Clericals were planning to overthrow the Portuguese government and establish a military dictatorship.

The Paris Journal has offered a prize of \$40,000 for the winner of an airship race from Paris to Berlin, Brussels and London.

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LIGHTNING PLAYS SOME ODD PRANKS

PERFORMS MANY QUEER STUNTS IN A NEW JERSEY HOME.

NEVER TOUCHED OCCUPANTS

Furniture and Decorations Are Torn or Melted, But No One Is Hurt, Though the Bolt Had to Dodge Them.

Lightning has been known to play queer freaks, but a streak of the Jersey brand which struck the home of John Ackermann in Rochelle Park, N. J., a few days ago, seems to have done more queer things in a moment than had been done since Ajax defied the fluid. From removing the four castors of a table to snipping off the steel stub of a pen with which a young woman was writing in an adjoining house, the zigzagging bolt managed to disrupt or injure most everything in its path.

The bolt melted the telephone wire and hurled the molten metal against a window with such force as to make



The Bolt Crashed Down on Them.

mosaics of several panes, the spattering hot metal so deeply engraving itself in the glass that there has been no getting it out.

One side of the hall was ripped out and from there the lightning flashed into the parlor, where a broken lamp and scattered and broken bric-a-brac told of its passage through that apartment.

Then it journeyed to the dining-room, where Mr. Ackermann was sitting. The walls, blackened, seared and bulged out on three sides, show that the bolt struck the room in three places, and Ackermann is still marveling how it was that the lightning flashed all around without ever touching him.